AMENDMENTS

In the Claims

Please amend claims 2-4 as set forth below.

Complete Listing of the Claims

Upon entry of the present amendments, the claims will stand as follows. The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of the claims in the present application:

1. (Cancelled)

2. (Currently amended) A method of detecting ~~a~~ altered expression of growth differentiation factor-5 (GDF-5) ~~associated cell proliferative disorder~~ in a subject in need thereof, comprising contacting a GDF-5 specific antibody, ~~which~~ wherein said GDF-5 specific antibody specifically binds a GDF-5 polypeptide having an amino acid sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO:10 or SEQ ID NO:13, or an antigen binding fragment of said GDF-5 specific antibody, with a specimen of ~~a~~ the subject suspected of having ~~a~~ altered expression of GDF-5 ~~associated disorder~~, and detecting binding of the antibody or the antigen binding fragment of the antibody, wherein an increased or decreased level of binding to the specimen as compared to binding to ~~a normal cell~~ cells having normal expression of GDF-5 is indicative of ~~a~~ altered expression of GDF-5 ~~associated cell proliferative disorder~~ in the subject.

3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 2, wherein the ~~cell proliferative disorder is a~~ specimen comprises uterine neoplasm tissue or endometriosis tissue.

4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 2, wherein the ~~cell proliferative disorder~~ specimen comprises ~~is a~~ skeletal ~~disorder~~ tissue.

5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2, wherein the detecting is *in vivo*.

6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2, wherein the detection is *in vitro*.

7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2, wherein the antibody comprises a detectable label.

8. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 7, wherein the detectable label is a radioisotope, a fluorescent compound, a bioluminescent compound, a chemiluminescent compound, an enzyme, a colloidal metal, a phosphorescent compound, or a paramagnetic isotope.

9. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2, wherein the antibody comprises a hapten coupled thereto.

10. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 9, wherein the hapten is biotin, dinitrophenyl, puridoxal, or fluorescein.

11. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2, wherein the antibody is a monoclonal antibody.

12. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2, wherein the antigen binding fragment of the GDF-5 specific antibody is an Fab fragment or an $F(ab')_2$ fragment.

13. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2, wherein the antibody or antigen binding fragment of the antibody is bound to a solid phase carrier.

14. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 13, wherein the solid phase carrier comprises glass, polystyrene, polypropylene, polyethylene, dextran, nylon, amylase, natural cellulose, modified cellulose, polyacrylamide, agarose or magnetite.